DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 432 363 PS 027 601

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TITLE	The Developing Mind: Toward a Neurobiology of Interpersonal Experience.
ISBN	ISBN-1-57230-453-7
PUB DATE	1999-00-00
NOTE	392p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Guilford Publications, Inc., Dept. 72, Spring Street, New York, NY 10012; Tel: 800-365-7006 (Toll free); Fax: 212-966-6708; Web site: http://www.guilford.com ($37.95).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Information Analyses (070)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Attachment Behavior; *Brain; Child Development; Cognitive Processes; Emotional Experience; Evolution; Individual Development; *Interpersonal Relationship; Memory; Models; *Neurology; *Neuropsychology; Parent Child Relationship; Significant Others; Theories
IDENTIFIERS	*Brain Development; Neurobiology

ABSTRACT

This book synthesizes information from a range of scientific disciplines, including neuroscience, developmental psychology, and psychiatry, to explore the idea that the mind emerges at the interface of interpersonal experience and the structure and function of the brain. Each chapter explores a major domain of human experience. Following an introductory chapter discussing the organization of the brain and brain development, chapter 2 summarizes memory research, focusing on how earliest life experiences shape what and how we remember and the way we form the narrative of our lives. Chapter 3 examines attachment relationships in childhood and adulthood, highlighting how repeated patterns of interaction shape what children recall and how representational processes develop. Chapter 4 explores the role of emotion in shaping interpersonal relationships and the human mind. Chapter 5 reviews the way the mind creates mental representations of experience. Chapter 6 examines how different mental processes are organized within a state of mind to allow disparate activities of the brain to become cohesive at a given moment. Chapter 7 explores how complex systems, such as the mind and interpersonal relationships, regulate the flow of their states. Chapter 8 examines the nature of the connections between minds and offers examples from psychotherapy to illustrate how communication patterns help determine the ways in which self-regulation emerges. Chapter 9 discusses how the self creates a sense of coherence across time as various self-states become active, and stresses the coherence of autobiographical narratives as an assessment of such integration. Contains approximately 500 references. (KB)

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